

**Alaska
Right of Way
Pest Control
Supplemental Information**



Category Nine

In general, applicators who apply pesticides to property other than their own, or act as a pesticide consultant must obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Pesticide Program. Applicators who apply restricted-use pesticides must also be certified.

All individuals who apply pesticides to control pests in rights-of-way (ROWs) in Alaska must be certified by the ADEC in the Right of Way Pest Control Category (Category Nine).

The Washington State University *Rights of Way Vegetation Management Manual* contains the majority of information needed to successfully complete the written examination to obtain certification in Category Nine in Alaska. However, regulations and requirements are different in Alaska, as are some environmental conditions and some types of pests. This supplemental manual provides additional information that is specific to Alaska.

You will also need to have a working knowledge of the information covered in the following documents and manuals:

- National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual; and
- State of Alaska Pesticide Regulations in Title 18, Chapter 90 of the Alaska Administrative Code (18 AAC 90)

CALCULATIONS

Precise and accurate application is important for every pesticide application. Strong math skills, including the ability to calculate speed, volume, odd shaped areas mixing ratios, rates of application, etc. will be necessary to successfully pass examination for this category.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Before a pesticide may be applied in a public place, including public areas of governmental facilities, parks, playing fields, and similar areas, the applicator must post a written notice in accordance with 18 AAC 90.630. This includes posting information about the date and time of application, emergency contact information, and when the area may be re-entered. Visible notices must be posted at all access points, and must remain in place at least 24 hours, or until the re-entry period specified by the product label has expired. Please review the specific details of these requirements in the Pesticide Regulations.

ALASKA RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

State regulations require certified applicators to keep detailed records of ALL commercial or contract pesticide applications. Records must be kept for a minimum of two years and must contain the following information for both restricted use pesticides (RUPs) and general use pesticides (GUPs):

- Name of applicator
- Date of application
- Pesticide product name

- EPA registration number
- Location/address of area treated
- Site (e.g. front yard, living room, etc.) or specific crop to which pesticide was applied
- Target pests
- Amount applied - rate, dilution, and total amount. (*Pounds released for fumigants*)
- *Fumigants only* - temperature and duration of exposure period

The following additional information must be recorded for all RUP applications:

- Name and address of customer where pesticide was applied
- Time of application
- Percentage of active ingredient
- Disposal information for excess container, pesticide, rinsate, including disposal method, date, location.

ALASKA PESTICIDE USE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

By state law, an ADEC Pesticide Use Permit is required before you may apply pesticide under the following circumstances:

- **To any state owned or leased right of way, regardless of the size of application area or the pesticide to be applied.**
- To any state owned or leased land that is 1 acre or more in area.
- To any water body or wetlands, including creeks, drainages, streams, ponds, rivers and swamps, regardless of who owns the surrounding lands.
- To more than one property.
- Aerial application (by airplane or helicopter).

It is against the law to apply pesticides to a state owned right of way without a Pesticide Use Permit.

Regulations related to permit requirements may be found at 18 AAC 90, Sections 500-540. The permitting process is rigorous, and takes a minimum of 100 days to complete. Applicators should plan well in advance to ensure that a valid Pesticide Use Permit can be obtained for the planned pesticide application.

The permitting process requires detailed information about the specifics of the proposed pesticide use. Once all the required information is submitted, the application is opened to a public comment and review period, and may require a public hearing. Once the public review period is complete, ADEC will conduct a thorough review of the proposed project and determine whether or not to issue a Pesticide Use Permit. If a Permit is issued, it does not become valid until after a 40 day waiting period, to allow time for the public to appeal the decision.

Pesticide use often raises concern in local communities, and may become contentious. Public resistance to the proposed pesticide use may impact your ability to obtain a Pesticide Use Permit.

Failure to obtain a permit is a violation of state law, and can result in significant penalties under Alaska Statute 46.03.760. It is the responsibility of the pesticide applicator to ensure that all required permits and approvals are in place before applying pesticides.

ALASKA SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Pesticide use along ROWs in Alaska most often involves control of unwanted vegetation, commonly known as weeds. Occasionally destructive insect pests such as carpenter ants create problems on structures in ROWs.

Biological controls - The use of insects, animals, or pathogens can sometimes be used to control pests. However, there are no biological controls recommended for use in Alaska.

Pre-plant and pre-emergent herbicides - Timing of application of some pre-emergent herbicides in Alaska can be tricky, as they must be applied during the small window after soil is no longer frozen, but before seeds begin germination.

Residual herbicides - Herbicides become inactive in the environment in several ways. They may be broken down into component parts by sunlight (**photodegradation**), micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungus (**microbial degradation**), or natural chemical reactions in soil such as oxidation, reduction, or hydrolysis (**chemical degradation**). They may be also taken up by plants and metabolized or neutralized. Many of these processes slow or cease during the long winter season in Alaska. As a result, some herbicides may persist in the environment longer than expected.

PORTIONS OF THE WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY MANUAL TO DISREGARD

You may disregard the following sections or pages of the Washington State University *Manual*, as they do not apply in Alaska:

- **Laws Affecting Weed Management**; pages 37-38. Washington laws and regulations do not apply in Alaska.

Before Using Any Pesticide

STOP

**All pesticides can be harmful to health
and environment if misused.**

**Read the label
carefully. Use only
as directed.**